

NATIONAL PULSE MEMORIAL

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to oppose the out-of-control defense spending contained in this year's National Defense Authorization Act. At a topline level of \$768.2 billion, this bill is larger than any previous pentagon spending bill. It's even bigger than what the President asked for by \$25 billion.

This excess is particularly egregious when compared to the military spending of our potential adversaries. We spend more on the US military than the next eleven countries combined.

And all this funding is being poured into an agency that is perennially unaccountable to the American public. It has been 30 years since all federal agencies were required to pass audits. And after three decades the Department of Defense (DOD) remains the only agency in the federal government that has so far failed to pass an audit. The most recent prediction from the department for a clean audit is 2028.

Yet we see numerous examples of fraud, waste, and abuse from this department, from legacy weapons systems built for the cold war, to the billions in documented waste in Afghanistan.

The military has rightly identified the climate crisis as one of the biggest and most immediate threats to American lives and interests. And yet the Pentagon still hasn't fully reported on its own greenhouse gas emissions. And every excessive dollar spent on the Pentagon isn't available for the investments we need to make in mitigation and adaptation to protect us and the world from the impacts of climate change.

Especially frustrating to me about this bill is the fact that needed reforms to advance racial justice and combat extremism and white supremacy were excluded in the negotiations that produced this compromise legislation. Our military leaders have been clear about the need to address extremism within the ranks and provide equal justice for Black and Brown servicemen and women. By failing to address these issues adequately in this bill, we don't just let down our men and women in uniform, we let down the country and betray our ideals.

Enough is enough. Americans are demanding that Congress rebalance our priorities and invest in the biggest challenges America faces. We face imminent threats from the COVID pandemic, Climate Change, domestic terrorism, growing economic inequality, and systemic racial and ethnic inequities. It is time to shift our spending priorities to meet these urgent human security priorities. I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill.

HONORING CPT. MITCH PHILLIPS

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 13, 2021

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of one of Missouri's

finest, Captain Mitch Phillips, who is retiring after 28 years of dedicated service in the Cass County Sheriffs Office.

Cpt. Phillips started his career attending what is now known as the University of Central Missouri. While there, he discovered a call to serve and protect his community and decided to pursue a career in public service. Cpt. Phillips first joined the Garden City Police Department after graduating from the National Police Academy in Warrensburg, Missouri.

Shortly thereafter, Cpt. Phillips became acquainted with the deputies from the Cass County Sheriffs Office and knew that his call to service would lead him there. In August of 1993, Cpt. Phillips joined the Cass County Sheriffs Office as a Patrol Deputy. As a result of his hard work and demonstrated leadership capabilities, Cpt. Phillips quickly rose to the rank of Sergeant in November of 1995.

Cpt. Phillips has held various leadership positions within the Cass County Sheriffs Office and has cultivated an environment that promotes integrity, dedication, and excellence from all his officers. His unwavering, steadfast support for his brothers and sisters in uniform truly represents the values of Missouri.

As any of the men and women that wear the badge can tell you, service does not come without sacrifice. No officer bears the burdens alone. For more than 28 years, Cpt. Phillips put the safety and wellbeing of the citizens of Cass County above his own, with the support of his wife, Michele, his three children, who stood beside their husband and father throughout all the hardships that the nature of law enforcement placed before them. We owe them all a debt of gratitude.

His life verse, Mathew 7:12, is one we all should abide by—"So in everything, do unto others as you would have them do unto you . . ." Cpt. Phillips embodies all the qualities that make an excellent officer and public servant. Please join me in recognizing and honoring this heroic police officer and his years of self-less service to protecting our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 13, 2021

Mr. WELCH. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on Roll Call No. 401. Had I been present, I would have voted Aye on Roll Call No. 401.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES R. BAIRD

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 13, 2021

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, on December 8, 2021 my vote was mistakenly recorded as "NO" on H.R. 4996—the Ocean Shipping Reform Act, a bill that I was a proud co-sponsor of, despite my vote being correctly announced as "YES" by my proxy. Had I been present, I would have voted Yes on Roll Call No. 406.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRIS JACOBS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 13, 2021

Mr. JACOBS of New York. Madam Speaker, I am recorded as not voting on Roll Call No. 412, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended H.R. 1155—Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act. Had I been recorded, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 412.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHANIE N. MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 13, 2021

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on Roll Call Numbers 436 through 440 on December 9, 2021. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 436; NAY on Roll Call No. 437; NAY on Roll Call No. 438; NAY on Roll Call No. 439; and YEA on Roll Call No. 440.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF EL COMERCIO DE COLORADO

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 13, 2021

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of El Comercio de Colorado for receiving 14 national journalism awards granted by the National Association of Hispanic Publications (NAHP).

In my time in Congress, I have been proud to represent the most diverse district in Colorado. With people from all walks of life and over 120,000 immigrants calling our community home, our diversity makes our community a stronger and more vibrant place to live.

As our district's Latino and Hispanic populations have grown, El Comercio de Colorado has offered high-quality Spanish-language content for our community. As the publication has gained recognition, Jesus Sanchez, chief editor of El Comercio de Colorado, has made it his mission to provide our Spanish-speaking community with a publication that provides well-sourced information about what is happening across our district and nation.

The hard work and dedication shown by Jesus and his staff at El Comercio de Colorado has more than paid off as the publication was awarded 14 national journalism awards by the NAHP, including five first place recognitions for Outstanding Entertainment Section, Outstanding Latin American Article, Outstanding Community Photo, Outstanding Cultural Photo Essay, and Outstanding Editorial Audio. These awards truly demonstrate the hard-earned trust El Comercio de Colorado has built within our community.

It goes without saying that the Latino and Hispanic communities in our district play an integral role in making the Sixth District a better

place to live. Publications like *El Comercio de Colorado* play a vital role in making our community feel like home for everyone—no matter their ethnicity, religion, or place of birth. Our community owes *El Comercio de Colorado* a debt of gratitude for their remarkable work and I congratulate them on receiving this well-deserved recognition.

HONORING THE CAREER OF STEVE RICHARDSON

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 13, 2021

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of hardworking public servant, Steve Richardson. After serving nearly 40 years with the Social Security Administration spanning three different field offices, Steve will head onto the next chapter of his life this on December 31st, 2021. Steve has dedicated his life to serving and informing the public, and his loss is a notable one for the Social Security Administration and the Boston region as a whole.

As a fellow native New Englander, Steve graduated from Northeastern in 1984 with a Bachelor's in Political Science. As someone who place strong value in an education, he also went on to obtain a Master's in Public Affairs from Boston's Emerson College in 1999. Equipped with an impressive Massachusetts education, Steve was destined to serve the public of Connecticut's neighboring state.

Before even completing his Bachelor's, he began with the Roxbury Social Security Administration's Field Office in 1982 as a claims representative, working to prove his professionalism and wealth of knowledge from the get-go. It was because of his experience and dedication to the public that he was able to expand his career with the Administration to the Roslindale and Chelsea field offices while wearing numerous hats including the additional roles of supervisor and regional public affairs specialist. He most recently transitioned to the role of regional communications director for the Boston regional office in 2018, where he has remained responsible for the coordination of the Administration's public activities in all six New England states.

Madam Speaker, I am grateful to have had the opportunity to meet Steve and know of his work on all things related to Social Security. He has been an invaluable resource for my office and longtime Social Security caseworker Karen Weseliza, and has acted as a strong leader, creative teacher, and an excellent administrator to those who have worked with and for him. Even with Karen's sharp expertise, he could always be relied on as the first person to call on the hardest cases and could always be relied upon to assist my casework team with any complications. To that end, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating Steve's life of hard work and congratulating him on a well-earned retirement.

EXTENSION OF COVERAGE OF CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND PAYMENTS TO TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5119, legislation that would extend availability of CARES Act funds provided to tribal governments through December 30, 2022.

Currently, CARES Act funds will expire on December 31, 2021, and tribes will be unable to use these vital resources. Although \$8 billion was set aside for Tribes in the CARES Act to help respond to the coronavirus pandemic, they did not receive any funds until May 5, 2020, and some are still in the process of being distributed.

It is important to note that this legislation does not increase federal spending, rather it extends the timeline to use money already allocated.

After the CARES Act was signed into law, there was minimal guidance offered on what this funding could and could not be put towards, which led to an inadequate timeframe for Tribes to prepare an effective spending plan. A one-year extension will allow them the necessary time to best allocate these resources to their members without a rushed agenda.

Coronavirus Relief Funds have been put towards many essential services such as, improvements to health care, purchasing protective equipment, and distance learning programs.

Tribes used these funds in many different ways. Whether it was turning facilities into emergency operation centers or building meatpacking warehouses to help with the food supply crisis, they stepped up to provide for their members and community during the pandemic.

With the delayed allocations and limited guidance, tribes were put at an unfair advantage to begin with. This is why a December 31, 2022, extension of availability for CARES Act funds is necessary to allow tribes the time to effectively use these resources.

As Co-Chair of the Native American Caucus, I commend Vice Chair Young and Representative O'Halleran in introducing this legislation. I urge my colleagues to vote yes on H.R. 5119.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this infor-

mation, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, December 14, 2021 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

DECEMBER 15

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine disaster recovery assistance, focusing on authorization of the Community Development Block Grant—Disaster Recovery Program.

SD-538

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider S. 46, to reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 and to establish the United States Coral Reef Task Force, S. 3196, to enhance the policies, procedures, and training for midshipmen at the United States Merchant Marine Academy, an original bill entitled, "Omni-bus Tourism Act", S. 3309, to require SelectUSA to coordinate with State-level economic development organizations to increase foreign direct investment in semiconductor-related manufacturing and production, the nominations of Alan Davidson, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information, Jed David Kolko, of California, to be Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, and Viquar Ahmad, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary, and to be Chief Financial Officer, all of the Department of Commerce, and Mary T. Boyle, of Maryland, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

SR-253

Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Marc R. Stanley, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Argentine Republic, Rashad Hussain, of Virginia, to be Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom, Ramin Toloui, of Iowa, to be an Assistant Secretary (Economic and Business Affairs), Thomas Barrett, of Wisconsin, to be Ambassador to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Erik D. Ramanathan, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Sweden, Scott Miller, of Colorado, to be Ambassador to the Swiss Confederation, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Principality of Liechtenstein, and Jamie L. Harpootlian, of South Carolina, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Slovenia, all of the Department of State, Adriana Debora Kugler, of Maryland, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and other pending calendar business.

SD-106

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine pending nominations.

SD-226

11:30 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 3099, to amend title 44, United States Code, to